

m/037/088

From: Loren Morton
To: NRDOMAIN.NROGM.WHEDBERG
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 1996 3:20 pm
Subject: Summo Mining: Cu deposit in South Lisbon Valley

Wayne, I got a call last Wednesday, January 31, from a Dave Mickelson of Woodward-Clyde in Denver (303)740-3827 regarding his client Summo Mining and their proposal to open a Cu deposit in South Lisbon Valley. Specifically, he talked about how the GTO Pit and the Centennial and Sentinal mines there would be reopened as an open pit operation. I am passing along a conversation we had about some uranium ore recently discovered in the GTO Pit.

Mickelson said that a previous owner of the GTO Pit had apparently hauled in about 200 cubic feet of uranium ore/mine spoils from a mine on Three Step Hill and left it on a bench on the south side of the pit. He reported having inspected the ore/mine spoils pile in the pit and had observed carnotite ore in it. He also reported that analysis of stormwater that had accumulated on the spoils pile had rather elevated concentrations of radioactivity (gross alpha and beta concentrations as high as 5,700 and 3,800 pCi/l, respectively). Apparently, the BLM had already raised some concerns about this ore pile and had asked Summo to resolve them in their upcoming draft EIS.

Mickelson asked if there was any regulatory requirements from the Utah Division of Radiation Control or the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that he needed to follow for the ore pile. I told him that uranium mine spoils like this were unregulated by DRC and NRC, in that the only way State or Federal radiation rules come into play is after uranium ores are processed at a mill. I discussed three options he had for dealing with the uranium spoils pile, as follows:

1. Put the ore/spoils pile back in the mine where they came from. I mentioned how DOGM had required this of other uranium mine closures, and suggested he might call you to find out more about what DOGM might require.
2. Treat the ore as a Naturally Occuring Radioactive Material (NORM) and remove and dispose of it at a NORM waste disposal facility. One example is Envirocare in Tooele County.
3. Treat the ore pile as a de-minimus problem and dilute it with the tailings or overburden from the new copper mine operation.

I told him that since the DRC has no regulatory jurisdiction over uranium mine spoils, that at as far as we are concerned he could take his pick of any of these three options, providing of course it didn't contradict anything that DOGM might require.

If you have any questions, please call me at 536-4262.

CC: EQWQ.DFREDERI, DFINERFR